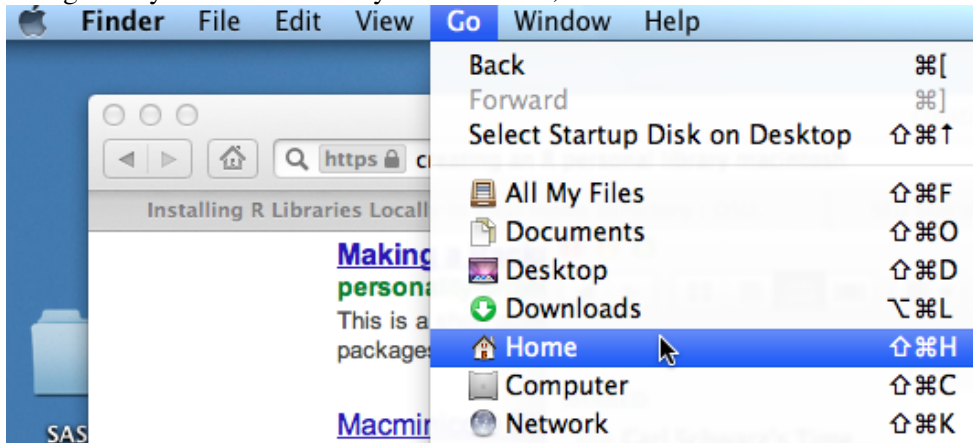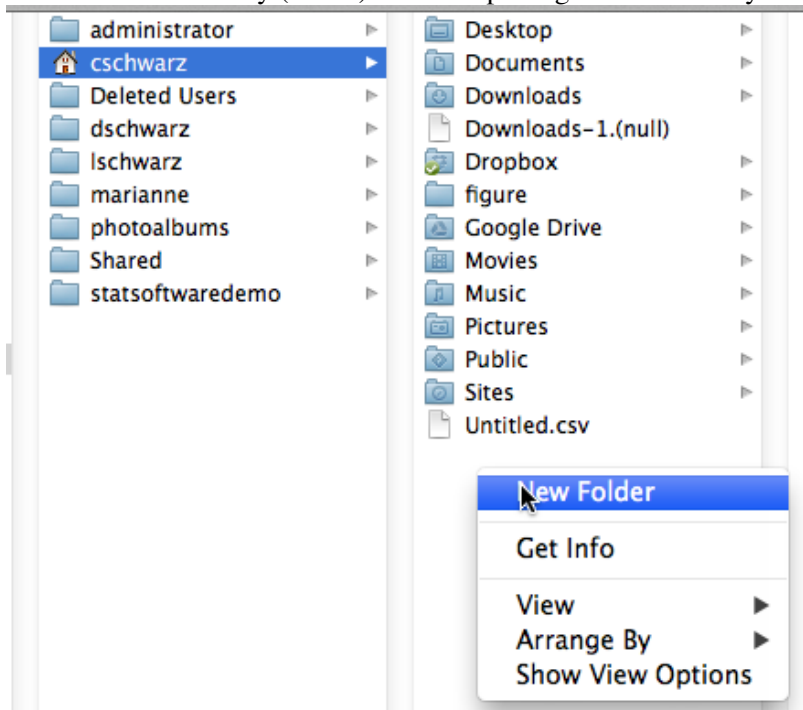# Creating a personal library for R packages - Macintosh.
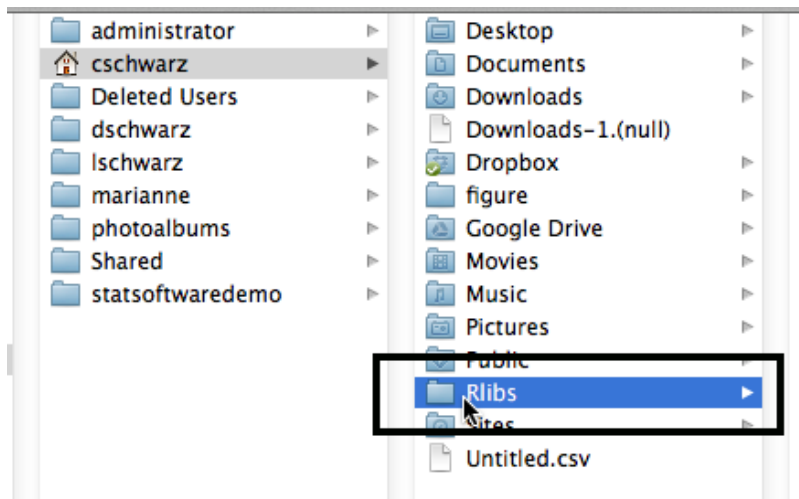
[This is an expanded version of these instructions](#)

1. Navigate to your home directory. In the Finder, use Go -> HOME

2. Create a new directory (folder) for the R pacakges. Traditionally this is called **Rlibs**
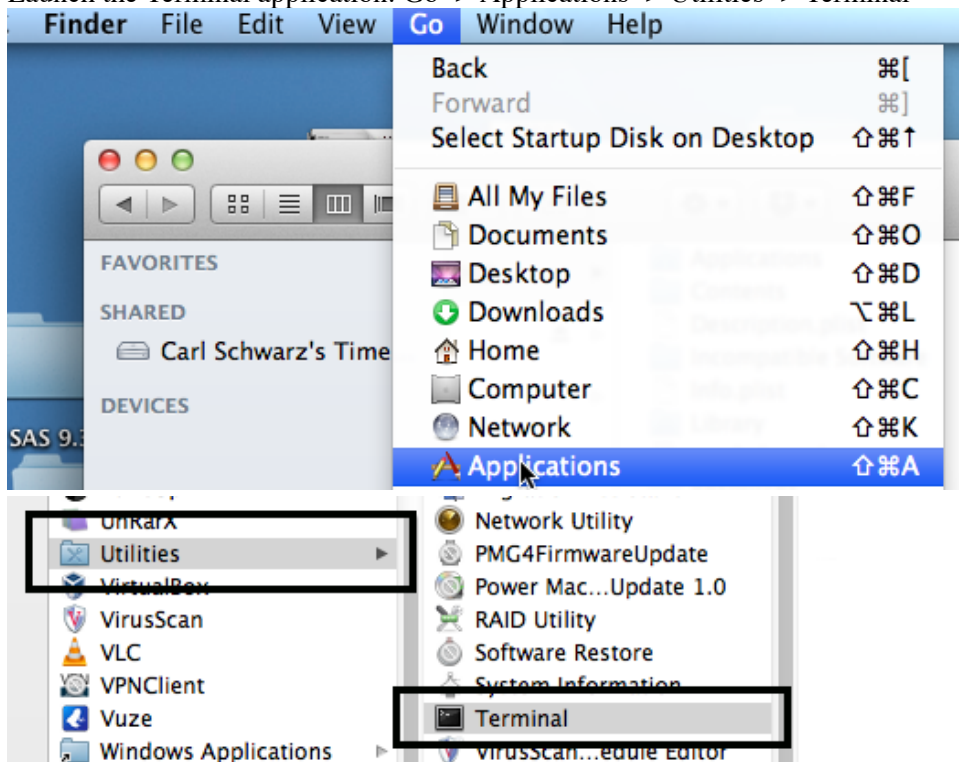
3. You now want to create a special (hidden) file called .Renviron (yes it beings with a period) that contains a single line
   R_LIBS=~/Rlibs
   This will tell R that your personal (package) library is the directory called Rlibs in your home directory.

   To create the .Renviron file will require a litte work with the Terminal application.

4. Launch the Terminal application: Go -> Applications -> Utilities -> Terminal

This gives a window looking similar to:

```
  ● ● ●                          Terminal — tcsh — ttys001

Last login: Fri Oct 18 20:45:48 on ttys001
PATH=/usr/bin:/bin:/usr/sbin:/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/opt/X11/bin
TMPDIR=/var/folders/mk/xtb91k8m8xjgbx001s7bcdxh0000gp/T/
SHELL=/bin/tcsh
HOME=/Users/cschwarz
USER=cschwarz
LOGNAME=cschwarz
SSH_AUTH_SOCK=/tmp/launch-otBzaN/Listeners
Apple_Ubiquity_Message=/tmp/launch-did1tw/Apple_Ubiquity_Message
Apple_PubSub_Socket_Render=/tmp/launch-pNQS6g/Render
DISPLAY=:0.0
COMMAND_MODE=unix2003
__CF_USER_TEXT_ENCODING=0x1F6:0:0
TERM_PROGRAM=Apple_Terminal
TERM_PROGRAM_VERSION=309
TERM_SESSION_ID=1A774853-9725-4DB6-9CEF-2A810C03E9BE
LANG=en_US.UTF-8
TERM=vt102
HOSTTYPE=intel-mac
VENDOR=apple
OSTYPE=darwin
MACHTYPE=x86_64
SHLVL=1
PWD=/Users/cschwarz
GROUP=staff
HOST=Schwarz-MacPro-Home-2009.local
REMOTEHOST=
[Schwarz-MacPro-Home-2009:~] cschwarz% ▉
```

5. Type the unix command
     ls
   to list the files in your home directory. You should see the *Rlibs* directory that you created earlier.

```
[Schwarz-MacPro-Home-2009:~] cschwarz% ls
Desktop              Downloads-1.(null)   Library      Pictures     Sites
Documents            Dropbox              Movies       Public       Untitled.csv
Downloads            Google Drive         Music        Rlibs        figure
[Schwarz-MacPro-Home-2009:~] cschwarz% ▉
```

6. Type the unix command (or copy and paste the line below)
     echo "R_LIBS=~/Rlibs" > .Renviron
   Don't forget the period (.) before the Renviron name and besure that your case matches.

7. Type the unix command
     ls -a
   to see all of the files in your directory, including those with an initial period. You should now see a .Renviron file in the listing. Don't worry about the other files.

```
[Schwarz-MacPro-Home-2009:~] cschwarz% ls -a
.                    .Xauthority      .jpi_cache       .swt             Library
..                   .bash_history    .lesshst         .texlive2008     Movies
.CFUserTextEncoding  .cache           .login           .viminfo         Music
.DS_Store            .cups            .mplayer         .vimrc           Pictures
.MCXLC               .dropbox         .nchsoftware      Desktop          Public
.RData               .filezilla       .pdfsam          Documents        Rlibs
.Renviron            .flexlmrc        .putty           Downloads        Sites
.Rhistory            .fontconfig      .rstudio-desktop Downloads-1.(null) Untitled.csv
.Rtemp               .fonts.cache-1   .serverauth.242  Dropbox          figure
.Trash               .java            .ssh             Google Drive
[Schwarz-MacPro-Home-2009:~] cschwarz% ▉
```

8. Finally, type the unix command to verify that the .Renviron file has been set properly:
     more .Renviron

```
[Schwarz-MacPro-Home-2009:~] cschwarz% more .Renviron
R_LIBS=~/Rlibs
```

Now launch R (or Rstudio), and type the following command in the console. You should see the new paths for your personal (package) library:

```
>
> .libPaths()
[1] "/Users/cschwarz/Rlibs"
[2] "/Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/3.0/Resources/library"
> |
```

[[SFU Statistics and Actuarial Science Home](#) | [SFU Home](#)]
[Email comments or suggestions to Carl Schwarz (cschwarz@stat.sfu.ca)](#)

© 2013 Carl James Schwarz Last updated 2013-10-18.